



Fact Sheet

*U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Natural Resource Information Division*



Servicewide Databases

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The Natural Resource Information Division supports the development, compiling, and processing of several servicewide computer applications and associated databases. Computer software is designed, maintained, and distributed to provide park and central office staff with uniform tools for efficient documentation and for retrieval of information about management and natural resources. The information age and people's subsequent familiarity with modern technology have spawned high expectations and demands for the availability of accurate and timely data. This includes information for quick assess, forecast, or recall of the conditions of specific natural resources and managerial efforts in the stewardship of the National Park Service.

Resource Management Plan Database

Resource management staff throughout the National Park Service use the Resource Management Plan (RMP) database to prepare and maintain annual project information in a standardized format. Specialized software provides park and central-office program managers with quick access to information that strengthens planning and helps with the documentation of project activities. Park staff primarily use the system to document cultural and natural resource management in the parks' 4-year resource management plans. The

system may also be used to create project accomplishment reports.

Park superintendents are requested to annually review and update project information (including project descriptions and funding estimates and allocations). Staff of a designated central administrative office gathers updated information. Park and central office staff are responsible for the accuracy of the RMP data. The Natural Resources Information Division is responsible for consolidating and maintaining the annual servicewide RMP Database.

Research Report Database

The Investigator's Annual Report (IAR) database is used throughout the National Park Service to uniformly gather information on research in the parks each year. Park managers use the application software to track annual research reports from investigators who conduct studies in parks each calendar year. Central offices may use the system for answering a wide variety of research related queries. The Natural Resources Information Division is responsible for consolidating and maintaining the annual servicewide IAR Database.

Pesticide Use Proposals Databases

Park staff use the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) database to coordinate the use of pesticides in

National Park System units and to create proposals that are double-checked by a central office before applications of pesticides. The information in the IPM application software may be used to quickly determine the type, amount, and location of pesticide treatments.

Other Databases

The Natural Resource Information Division maintains several other databases with information about natural resources. These include an application for National Natural Landmarks (NNL), Inventory and Monitoring (NPFLORA/NPFAUNA), and the Natural Resource Management and Assessment Program (NRMAP).

Development Status

The conversion of some database application software is being considered so that information may be easily and securely updated, accessed, and processed through the Internet/World Wide Web.

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